

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00469 312155Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----106765 312201Z /66
O 312100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7115
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 469

EXDIS

VALLETTA FOR ASSNT SECTY MOOSE ONLY.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET,US,ASEC
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-WESTERN RELATIONS

1. SOVIET DCM REVEALED AT RECEPTION THIS EVENING FOR DEPARTING KGB CHIEF THAT THEY ARE DEFINITELY AWARE OF VERY IMPORTANT US MESSAGE TO MENGISTU, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANCE NOT MENTIONED. ASSUMING THAT INFO NOT PASSED TO SOVIETS IN WASHINGTON, I BELIVE THIS CONFIRMS THAT MESSAGE, AS CABLED BY AYALEW, WAS RECEIVED AT DIRG LEVEL AND THAT MENGISTU'S JANUARY 30 SPEECH WAS HIS ANSWER.

2. MAMMOUTH DEMONSTRATION IS SCHEDULED FOR 1 FEBRUARY 0630GMT AT REVOLUTION SQUARE IN SUPPORT OF MENGISTU'S SPEECH ATTACKING "CARTER CONSPIRACY." DIPLOMATS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND BUT FIVE WESTERN COMS AND ACOMS AT MEETING THIS EVENING, WHICH I ATTENDED, HAVE DECIDED NOT TO GO THEMSELVES BUT TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES. ALTHOUGH VIOLENCE NOT EXPECTED, AMCITS HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO AVOID AREA AND BE PREPARED.

3. PRO-WESTERN MOFA OFFICIAL MADE PLEA THIS EVENING AT SAME SOVIET RECEPTION THAT USG INTERPRET MENGISTU'S SPEECH AS MORE
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MODERATE THAN IN PAST SINCE HE DID NOT ATTACK CIA FOR INTERNAL SUBVERSION, ETC. I AGREED THAT THERE WERE VALID ELEMENTS IN HIS ANALYSIS AND PROMISED TO REGISTER HIS POINT OF VIEW WITH WASHINGTON. BUT SINCE THIS WAS FAR-FETCHED ACCUSATION OF CONSPIRACY, NOT TO MENTION PERSONAL ATTACK OF ONE CHIEF OF STATE ON ANOTHER, I WAS NOT CONVINCED WASHINGTON WOULD NECESSARILY UNDERSTAND HIS POINT OF VIEW. THIS IS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR DIALOGUE TO RETURN TO

DIPLOMATIC LEVEL SINCE IT IS OFTEN NECESSARY TO INTERPRET EACH
CAPITAL'S ATMOSPHERES TO OTHER SIDE -- REASON FOR WHICH I HAVE
BEEN SEEKING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL
CAN BE COUNTED ON TO REPORT MY STATEMENT, HE IS A "BORN PRO-
AMERICAN," AND DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE AT DIRG LEVEL PRETTY MUCH
DEAF TO SUCH "LACKEYS."
MATHERON

SECRET

NNN

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